

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Anthony Richard HUGGETT)	DECODING A SIGNAL
)	ENCODED WITH A
Serial No.)	CONVOLUTIONAL CODE
)	
Filed:)	
)	Group Art Unit:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir,

Submitted herewith, is Form PTO/SB/08A, list of patent references, copy of cited references and the G.B. Search Report.

The claims that are now filed are amended over those searched by the G.B. Patent Office and now require a decision to be based on the known bit information without first modifying the path métrics for the discarded states. This feature is in claim 1, sub-paragraph (b), and has corresponding claim language in the decoder claim 4.

EP 0612166A2 (NEC) and U.S. 2001/0000706A1 (Butler et al) disclose a method of restricting the previous states which the Viterbi algorithm is free to choose. In both cases the path metrics are modified for the paths that end in unwanted states and this causes the decision to be heavily biased in favour of the previous path with the unmodified path metric.

EP 0332290A2 (Plessey) discloses a method where a known (pilot) sequence is used to generate a model of the multi-path channel. This model is then used to modify the input symbols or input metrics. There is no decision making in the sense of that required by the present invention.

U.S. 6089749 (Blaum et al) relates to byte synchronisation recovery at the output of a Viterbi decoder. Again, this reference does not disclose the above-noted feature of the subject application.

Neither U.S. 2002/0144209A1 (Ariel et al) or U.S. 6476739B1 (Lui et al) disclose the essential features of the subject application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date 3/25/04

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of

Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Anthony Richard HUGGETT

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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